Innovation through diversity

**The Japan Times Satoyama Consortium**

**Participating Municipalities**

(As of Dec. 22)

**Me Prefecture**

[ ]
- Prefectural Office, Dedication to the Public
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Environment and Water

**Kumamoto Prefecture**

[ ]
- Prefectural Office
- Forestry and Aquatic Resources
- Environment and Water

**Chiba City**

[ ]
- City Hall
- Environment
- Agriculture

**Osaka City**

[ ]
- City Hall
- Environment
- Agriculture

**Tokyo City**

[ ]
- City Hall
- Environment
- Agriculture

**Suzhou**

[ ]
- Jiangsu Provincial Government
- Suzhou City
- Economy
- Environment

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The word community in the West often connotes the conservation of natural land resources accessible to all members of society.

Recently, digital communities such as online social networks on the internet, have also become prevalent. Both are based on the sharing of anthropocentric contributions of individuals for public good.

Satoyama started and evolved in a similar manner. Originally, it meant a shared woodland used and maintained by local individuals, while today it is being recognized as one of the foundations of knowledge on local economies and their sustainability, often practiced as such by locals, as well as digitally equipped non-locals.

However, saturation has unique attributes when compared to the Western counterpart. Satoyama, at its best, both encompasses and facilitates for its own local communities to thrive.

In the same way, there is a need to respond to cultural diversity, which is the hallmark of human history.

I speculate the potential of satoyama to become a more relevant and valuable vision for global governance, given its values and societal impact.